

There are few issues that have been more in the forefront of the national consciousness than health care. The price of care and coverage has been increasing, placing both personal and federal finances in peril. That's why Congress passed a health insurance reform bill in 2010 that combats rising costs and premiums and provides affordable care to all Americans.

To learn more about the issues of national health care reform and the new law, I encourage you to visit HealthCare.gov .

Bills I have authored during the 111th Congress (2009-2010):

- [H.R. 2820](#) - GPCI Justice Act of 2009 - This bill would correct a flaw in the application of a federal Medicare formula (Geographic Practice Cost Index, known as GPCI) that results in lower Medicare reimbursements for doctors in more than a dozen California counties. Language from this bill has been included in the House version of national health care reform legislation, [H.R. 3200](#) .

Bills I have cosponsored during the 111th Congress:

- [H.R. 2137](#) - Routine HIV Screening Coverage Act of 2009 - Requires group health plans to provide coverage for routine HIV screening under terms and conditions no less favorable than for other routine screenings.
- [H.R. 2263](#) -Disability Equity Act - Eliminates the five-month waiting period for an individual (including a disabled widow or widower) to be eligible for benefits based on disability. Also eliminates the waiting period for benefits under Medicare.
- [H.R. 1723](#) - Family Leave Insurance Act of 2009 - This legislation would create a federal insurance fund to provide employees with twelve weeks of paid family and medical leave.
- [H.R. 1708](#) - Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period Act of 2009 - Would phase out the waiting period for disabled individuals to become eligible for benefits under Medicare and eliminate the waiting period for individuals with life-threatening conditions to become eligible for such benefits.
- [H.R. 1691](#) - Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2009 - Requires a group health plan that provides medical and surgical benefits to ensure that coverage and radiation therapy are

provided for breast cancer treatment.

- [H.R. 1551](#) - Responsible Education About Life Act - Authorizes a grant program to states for sex education programs, including education on abstinence and contraception, to prevent teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

- [H.R. 1204](#) - Community Pharmacy Fairness Act of 2009 - Entitles independent pharmacies negotiating contract terms with a health plan to the same treatment to which bargaining units recognized under the National Labor Relations Act are entitled.

- [H.R. 676](#) - United States National Health Care Act or the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act - Establishes the United States National Health Care Program to provide all individuals residing in the United States and U.S. territories with free health care.

Key accomplishment during the 111th Congress:

- Congress passed and President Obama signed into law legislation that provides health care for 11 million children in low-income families, an expansion of 4 million children.

Key accomplishment during the 110th Congress (2007-2008):

- The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act became law in July 2008 after both the House and Senate successfully overrode President Bush's veto. The bill prevented a 10 percent payment reduction for physicians providing treatment to Medicare patients. The bill also enhanced extended several other key Medicare provisions.

- Legislation was signed into law in October 2008 that ended discrimination against patients seeking treatment for mental illnesses and addiction care by prohibiting insurers from imposing treatment or financial limitations when they offer mental health and addiction care that are more restrictive from those applied to medical and surgical services.

- Congress passed the Global AIDS bill, which authorized \$48 billion for programs to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria around the world over next five years.